

KNPR'S State of Nevada:

Clark County Responds To Mayor Comments And Concerns About Reopening

Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman stated on national television that she is willing to reopen the Las Vegas strip to serve as a “control group” in measuring the impact of lifting quarantine regulations amidst the coronavirus pandemic. She went on to say that businesses should re-open and that competition would just destroy the business that becomes a viral epicenter. Tourists in and out of the city would not even know they came in contact with the virus until the said business is reported as contaminated. CNN’s Anderson Cooper stated that this process would take weeks. (CNN.com) By then, they would have already been in numerous places and spread the virus to multiple unaware people. Not to mention that employees running the businesses would be the most at-risk of being infected. Owners of major casinos on the strip are concerned that these statements would tarnish the effort of keeping Las Vegas a safe place for tourists.

Fortunately, in another CNN interview, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak slams down the idea of reopening and setting the city as a control group. He affirmed that the city of Las Vegas would bounce back when the time is right. “We will rebuild our economy. Las Vegas will continue to thrive, but I can’t do that if I lose more people. We need to protect our health and well-being... Nevadans are doing everything they can. We need to send a consistent message and it’s difficult when we get one person that is leading people astray,” he stated. (CNN.com)

In addition, even though Goodman holds the title of “Las Vegas Mayor,” the Las Vegas strip is not in her jurisdiction. As we discussed in class, a person or an organization is only

powerful within their jurisdiction. This is why there are state laws that govern a certain state but are unrecognized in another state. For example, the use of recreational marijuana is rampant and legal in Nevada but illegal in New York State. (Randle) These laws are a reflection of the state's values upheld by their governing body. The same principle and structure govern a city or a county. In this case, the Las Vegas Strip is, in fact, part of Clark County which is headed by Clark County Commissioner Michael Naft. While Goodman's title holds weight, the position itself is pretty powerless when it comes to decision-making as Naft describes that she is only a spokesperson for Las Vegas, the brand. There is also a city manager who does most of the job. However, in this situation, Americans outside of Southern Nevada are oblivious to this fact. This is concrete evidence to what we discussed in class about Americans' political knowledge being low. Generally, Americans would never have thought that a "Las Vegas mayor" does not have jurisdiction on the "Las Vegas" strip as research says that their knowledge on political institutions, processes, and leaders are limited. No matter how confusing it is, at the end of the day, the Clark County Commissioner and the governor has the authority to uphold and lift quarantine regulations with regards to the Las Vegas strip.

As opposed to the mayor's conspiracy theories and science experiments, the commissioner expressed his and his colleague's efforts are focused on listening to medical experts, the governor, and the state board to determine when the right time to lift the quarantine is. The host, Joe Schoenmann, and the commissioner both expressed their worry about the fate of small businesses during this trying time. Naft referenced that even though the large, experienced companies are usually the ones who are quick to receive FDA loans before they run out of money, there are delegations who are aware of this and continue to "fight for dollars" for these small businesses. . He also mentions that there had been meetings with the department of

economic development and business licensing department to discuss the major objectives and to outline the framework of reopening the city. Ordinances and regulations are currently being reviewed to ensure they are in line with the post-COVID-19 era. (Prevatt)

This phenomenon is new to every one of us. As if the challenge of evading the virus is not problematic enough, we also have to deal with its economic impact and the changes to social institutions. The government are making various attempts to stop the spread all while being careful that the country does not go into recession. The local, state, and federal governments' decisions would affect all of our lives. Hopefully, they make the right decisions and use this as an opportunity to make America great again.

Works Cited

CNN. "*Anderson Cooper presses Las Vegas mayor over wish to reopen*". (2020). Accessed 9 May 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2020/04/22/las-vegas-mayor-carolyn-goodman-reopen-coronavirus-entire-interview-anderson-cooper-sot-nr-vpx.cnn>

CNN. “*Nevada Governor responds to Las Vegas mayor’s remarks*”. (2020). Accessed 9 May 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2020/04/23/nevada-governor-steve-sisolak-responds-to-mayor-carolyn-goodman-anderson-cooper-ac360-bts-vpx.cnn>

Prevatt, Mike. “*Clark County Responds To Mayor Comments And Concerns About Reopening*”. (2020). KNPR State of Nevada. Accessed 9 May 2020. <https://knpr.org/knpr/2020-04/clark-county-responds-mayor-comments-and-concerns-about-reopening>

Randle, Aaron. “*Marijuana: Where N.Y. Stands on Legalization*”. (2020). New York Times. Accessed 9 May 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/10/nyregion/cuomo-marijuana-legalization.html>